

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, RP, EPAP, EAGR

SUBJECT: SUGAR LEGISLATION PROSPECTS

REF: MANILA 2004

1. ADMINISTRATION POSITION ON SUGAR LEGISLATION REMAINS UNCHANGED; I.E. NO LEGISLATION IS BEING SOUGHT AND INITIATIVES ARE BEING LEFT WITH THE CONGRESS.

2. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY EDMOND CHAIRMAN FOLEY OF HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE SAID:

A) HE SEES RELATIVELY LITTLE INTEREST IN A SUGAR BILL THIS YEAR; B) HE IS RELUCTANT TO PUSH FOR A BILL UNLESS HE IS SURE OF ITS PASSAGE; C) IF PRICES CONTINUE TO FALL PRESSURE FOR LEGISLATION MAY INCREASE; D) THE COMMITTEE MAY DECIDE TO HOLD HEARINGS ON THE BROADER ASPECTS OF THE FUTURE OF SUGAR LEGISLATION, WITHOUT PROPOSING A BILL THIS SESSION OR GETTING INTO THE SPECIFICS OF INDIVIDUAL QUOTAS.

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3. CONGRESSMAN BERGLAN (D-MINN) OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE IS REPORTED TO BE IN THE INITIAL STAGES OF DRAFTING A SUGAR BILL; HOWEVER, THE GENERAL CONSENSUS IS THAT ANY FURTHER ACTION ON THIS OR OTHER DRAFTS IS SEVERAL MONTHS AWAY AT BEST.

4. IN DISCUSSING SUGAR LEGISLATION WITH GOP, EMBASSY SHOULD

AVOID REFERENCE TO SPECIFIC CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES OR TO DETAILS OF CONVERSATION REPORTED PARA 2, BUT MAY SAY THAT IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES PROSPECTS FOR SUGAR LEGISLATION ARE SLIGHT. KISSINGER

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